

# In Touch

*The city's monthly source for service information*



Volume 5 - Issue 2

## ***A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood***

### **Why do cities have Code Enforcement?**

Neighborhood Services Division works to enhance the quality of life in Salina's neighborhoods and help make Salina an attractive place to visit, work, live and invest. Local ordinances are in place to provide reasonable controls restricting or prohibiting various conditions, defined as nuisances, which have been determined to be harmful to the general public health, safety or welfare of the community. In general, ordinances apply to both private property and adjacent rights-of-way or easements. Individual efforts and good enforcement work together to protect property values across the city.

### **What Codes does Salina have in place and enforce?**

#### **COMMON VIOLATIONS:**

- **Trash and debris:** Accumulations of rubbish such as vehicle parts, appliances, household items, trash, and yard waste not under active composting cannot be stored outdoors and must be properly disposed of.



- **Uncontrolled Growth:** Code regulates grass and weeds on private property and the right-of-way adjoining it. Notices are issued for growth above 12 inches.



- **Inoperable Vehicles:** No inoperable vehicles may be stored outside a fully-enclosed garage or other building. A vehicle is presumed inoperable if it is stored on jacks or is missing a part required for legal operation on the street (license tag, current registration sticker included.)



- **Clear Sight:** To ensure safety for pedestrians and vehicles, no signs, fences, shrubs or other objects over 3 feet high may be maintained in the clear sight zone of an intersection. Sight zones vary in size based on the types of intersecting streets. Contact Engineering at 785-309-5725 for specific dimensions.

- **Trees:** Owners are responsible for trimming any tree branches lower than 8 feet over sidewalks and 12 feet over alleys and streets. This allows large vehicles such as emergency equipment to provide quick service and provides a safe path of travel for those using the sidewalk. Owners are also responsible for removing dead trees and limbs which could fall onto public property and maintaining trees and shrubs free from pests or disease which could spread to damage other properties.

- **Illegal Parking on Private Property:**

No vehicles, boats, trailer, or campers may be parked in any front yard except upon a driveway or adjacent all-weather-surfaced parking area. All parking areas shall be kept free of potholes, weeds, dust, trash and debris.



- **Sidewalks:** The abutting property owner is responsible for keeping the sidewalk in good repair, with uneven surfaces heights caused by heaving or breaks limited to a difference of one inch or less, and clear of hazards such as snow, ice, mud, and other obstructions. All snow and ice must be removed from abutting public sidewalks within 12 hours after the last snowfall.

- **Obstructing or Improper Use of Right-of-Way:** Generally, the area between the sidewalk and the street is public right-of-way to be maintained by the adjoining property owner. Bushes and sucker growth from street trees must be kept trimmed below 3 feet. Parking any vehicle, trailer or storing private equipment or materials on the right-of-way is not legal. Signs such as real estate, garage sale, or personal opinion signs may not be displayed in the right-of-way.

Get more information by topic at [www.salina-ks.gov](http://www.salina-ks.gov), Neighborhood Services.

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AN INFORMED CITIZEN



IS A BETTER CITIZEN!

## What process does the city use to enforce codes?

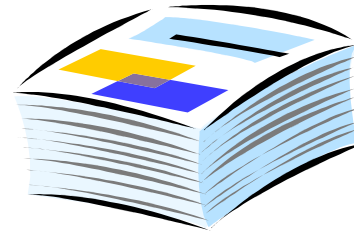
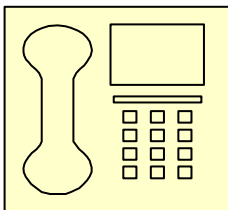
A written Notice to Abate is sent to the property owner and any tenant. It states a specific period of time, usually 5 to 10 days, depending on the violation, for corrective action to be taken. Owners may request a hearing regarding the citation or ask for an extension of the time allowed for corrective action by contacting the City before the date corrective action is due.

## If the owner doesn't clean up, what happens?

A follow-up inspection is scheduled the day after corrective action is to be done. If violations remain after the date specified, the city may take action to correct the violation (abatement) at the owner's expense, refer the case to Municipal Court, or both.

## How can I help keep the neighborhood looking good?

Report concerns, along with a specific address, to Neighborhood Services, 309-5760, or log onto [www.salina-ks.gov](http://www.salina-ks.gov) and make an online report.



## How quickly will something be done when an issue is reported?

Code inspection: within 24 hours of first report.

Notice to Abate: issued the same day, or within 24 hours of first inspection.

Minimum Corrective Action Period: 5 to 10 days, depending on type of violation; same day for emergency orders such as unsecured refrigerators or snowpacked sidewalks.

Appeal: Hearings are scheduled immediately on receipt of written request

Time Extension: May be granted for the same amount of time as originally allowed, if requested before the end of the original corrective action period.

Abatement: The day after corrective action is due, unless an extension is granted or unless individual case circumstances require additional public notice.

Average case resolution time: General nuisances, approximately 15 days; Tall grass & weeds, 7-21 days, depending on notification requirements.